METRO / A25
Sandigan acquits ex-DPWH chief Hipolito, 9 others

BUSINESS / B2-4
Wanna bet on maverick Juana Change?

NEWS / A2
NBN-ZTE case closed, says Pimentel; Cayetano seeks one more hearing

ENTERTAINMENT / G4
Lea Salonga returns to LA for series of shows

Now, Senate ethics body facing inquiry

By Michael Lim Ubac

NOW IT'S THE SENATE COMMITTEE on ethics that is under investigation.

The Senate minority will seek sanction against four senators who signed an amended order, which ruled as sufficient the complaint lodged by Sen. Jamby Madrigal against Sen. Manuel Villar in connection with the alleged double funding for a C-5 project in Parañaque.

At the Kapihan sa Senado, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said

NOW, SENATE A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, April 17, 2009 • Vol. 24 / No. 138
website: www.inquirer.net

Politics of confusion: Who's real opposition?

By Michael Lim Ubac

WILL THE REAL OPposition leader please stand up?

Don't expect a straight answer to this political riddle from



POLITICS A11

Failon wife dies in hospital



BEHIND LOCKED DOORS The private bath of this bedroom on the second floor of the Failon residence in Tierra Pura is where the shooting of Ted Failon's wife happened on Wednesday morning. Failon (in red cap) recounted that when he arrived from his radio shows, the room was locked and asked a maid to get the key. The maid was also dispatched to get the key to the bathroom, which was also locked. If the walls could talk, the job of Soco agents would be a breeze.

Ted, daughters at bedside when end came at 8:50 p.m.

By Nikko Dizon and Julie M. Aurelio

IF IT RAINS, IT POURS—AND IT'S POURING FOR BROADcaster Ted Failon, whose wife succumbed to a gunshot wound in the head last night.

Failon's wife of 25 years, Trinidad Etong, 44, died at 8:50 p.m. at the intensive care unit of the New Era General Hospital in Quezon City, where she was brought after a bullet was fired to her temple on Wednesday.

Failon said his wife had attempted to kill herself.

Dr. Adonis Gasson said the cause of death was "penetrating head injury secondary to gunshot wound and multiple organ failure."

Doctors tried to revive her for 15 minutes by applying electric shocks, he said.

Failon and his two daughters were asked whether the doctors should continue with the emergency procedure, and they agreed to have it terminated upon seeing that the patient had "flatlined," Gasson said.

Gasson said the family broke down and wept. An hour later, Failon appeared calm, but the daughters remained in

FAILON A4

Failon daughter defends pa, hits detractors

By Julie M. Aurelio

NO WAY.

The eldest of two daughters of TV personality Ted Failon yesterday angrily disputed accusations her father was involved in the shooting of her mother, Trinidad Etong.

In an interview over dzMM, 16-year-old Kay said her father was not at home at the time of the shooting.

"It is one big sham to show that Papa is a suspect," said Kay in Filipino. "It is not possible that Papa is at fault in what happened to Mama."

Kay said she was in Cebu Wednesday morning and that upon hearing

FAILON DAUGHTER A4

No powder burns but Failon not off the hook

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TED FAILON IS NOT YET IN THE clear in the shooting of his wife even if he tested negative for powder burns because evidence gathered by investigators contradicted his sworn statement, according to Metro Manila's top police official.

"He is not off the hook despite the negative result of the paraffin test," Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, head of the National Capital Region Police Office, said of the ABS-CBN news anchor in a press conference at Camp Karingal in Quezon City yesterday morning. "We are still scrutinizing other evidence gathered by investigators as this did not jibe with his statement to the police."

Rosales also stressed that Failon and the other members of his household were still suspects in the shooting "while the gathering of evidence is still going on."

The National Bureau of Investigation has also moved in.

At around 4:40 p.m. yesterday, the NBI Special Task Force unit led by lawyer Ariel Dalangpiano arrived at the New Era General Hospital in Quezon City where Failon's wife, Trinidad "Trina" Etong, is confined. (She died last night; story on this page.)

Dalangpiano told reporters that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had direct

NO POWDER A4

Lay off broadcaster's case, DOJ secretary orders PAO chief

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

"SHE'S CRAZY!"

That's how Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez described Persida Acosta, chief of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO).

Acosta, whose essential job is to help indigent litigants, assisted Ted Failon leave the Quezon City police station in the midst of an investigation yesterday to visit his wife in critical condition in the hospital after she was mysteriously shot Wednesday.

Gonzalez said he called up Acosta and ordered her to stop interfering in the police investigation and acting as Failon's lawyer.

"They are not supposed to do that. It is not their mandate," said Gonzalez of the PAO, which is under the supervision of the Department of Justice.

Acosta also appeared in Korina Sanchez's morning talk show and fielded questions from listeners, defending Failon.

Failon is Sanchez's partner in the hugely popular radio program.

The broadcaster has not been charged in court and he could hardly be considered an indigent, said Gonza

LAY OFF A11

120 RP seamen now in Somali pirates' hands

By Cynthia D. Balana

SHOWING THEY WILL NOT BE intimidated by US President Barack Obama's pledge to confront them, pirates have seized a Greek-owned bulk carrier with 22 Filipino seamen on board, bringing to 120 the number of Filipinos currently held hostage by the high-seas bandits off Somalia.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the local manning agency of the 35,000-ton MV Irene E.M.—hijacked in an unusual nighttime raid on Tuesday—had given assurances the 22 seamen were unharmed and all efforts were being exerted for the early release of the

120 RP SEAMEN A11

Senior Muslim clerics in talks with kidnappers

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ISABELA, BASILAN—AFTER three months, a hopeful sign.

With Muslim clerics involved in negotiations, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno reported yesterday a "breakthrough" in the efforts to secure the release of two workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) held hostage on Jolo island.

"Right now, there are talks going on," said Puno during a visit in Isabela on Basilan island. "That is a hopeful sign, there's communication going on."

SENIOR A11



BEAUTIFUL MINDS It's a celebratory time for President Arroyo and George Yang (left), Ronald McDonald House Charities chair and Kenneth Yang, Ronald McDonald House Charities president, during the conferment of medals on the first "Bright Minds Read" program graduates.

RP's Charice wows 57,000 Dodgers fans

By Pocholo Concepcion
Entertainment

THE SCENE HAS BECOME ALmost routine—teenage Filipino singer Charice Pempengco wowing an international crowd with her powerful, soaring vocals.

Except that this time, four days ago, she was singing the "Star Spangled Banner" at the 52nd season-opener of Major League baseball that pitted the Los Angeles Dodgers against arch-rival San Francisco Giants at Dodger Stadium.

Some 57,000 fans witnessed Pempengco's performance.

The question is, why was Pempengco, a Filipina, made to sing the American national anthem on US soil?

Pempengco herself was wondering, and smiled while saying

RP'S CHARICE A11

Second FRONT PAGE



SUPERLOTTO 6/49

15 19 23 25 32 38

P16,000,000.00

ZTE probe is closed, says Nene

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SENATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE GOVERNment's $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp. is a "closed case," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

Not so, says Alan

Nothing to add

Cancelled project

It's a gift to me, says new envoy to Vatican

By Dona Pazzibugan



Palace scoffs at JV's claim

NAUTICAL HIGHWAY LINK

GMA opens 2 Ro-ro ports

Shorter travel time

Easter seaboard route

Passenger send-off

Court allows bank exec to testify vs ex-general

By Philip C. Tubeza

Crash probers blame weather

By Jerome Aning

'Other factors'

No malfunction

BALIKATAN '09

RP-US war games start

By Cynthia D. Balana



AMERICAN SOLDIERS

Filipino ballet dancer stars in 'Jungle Book'

By Cynthia D. Balana

A FILIPINO BALLET DANCER, WHO WAS RECENTLY named Outstanding Emerging Artist at the Mayor's Arts Awards in the District of Columbia, is about to attract further media attention when he plays the central character in a Washington, DC stage production of Rudyard Kipling's classic "Jungle Book."

A report sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday by the Philippine Embassy in Washington said Jason Ignacio will play the role of the man-cub Mowgli in CityDance's original adaptation of the popular Kipling classic that blends movement, music, mischief and magic in a stage production described as a show perfect for the entire family.

Even the prestigious newspaper Washington Post had written that the CityDance production, with an easy-to-follow narrative, imaginative costumes and lots of energy is billed, "a fun, kid-friendly fare," according to the embassy report.

Ignacio told the embassy staff that he was "thrilled" by the opportunity to perform for a younger audience and to show Philippine artistry and excellence through dance to a wider audience in the United States.

Trained as a classical ballet dancer in the Philippines, Ignacio has been recognized by the artistic community in metropolitan Washington, D.C. as among its rising performers.

After being named Outstanding Emerging Artist at the 24th Mayor's Arts Awards—the highest distinction given by the District of Columbia to outstanding individuals, organizations and patrons of the arts—Ignacio offered the award to his native Philippines, and thanked the embassy for supporting Filipino artists.

Ignacio was also recently awarded the John F. Kennedy Center Millennium Stage Local Dance Commissioning Project for his work entitled "The Mountain," which centers on the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, April 17, 2009

Octave of Easter, Friday

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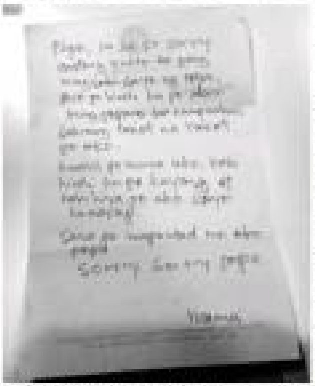
Citi never sleeps

citi

Failon wife dies in hospital; Ted, daughters at bedside



No powder burns but Failon not off the hook



Failon daughter defends pa, hits detractors



₱5.6 B in Legacy deposits found to be dubious–PDIC

By Leila B. Salaverria

Long, tedious process

Another estafa case

Latest complaint

More Pinoys apply for passports to seek jobs abroad

DepEd presses Congress to increase teachers' pay

By Philip C. Tubeza and Jerry Esplanada

Stranded RP drivers told to go home

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL in Dubai has advised the 137 Filipino drivers stranded in the United Arab Emirates to go back to the Philippines after learning that the employment offers made by a Philippine-based licensed recruitment agency were non-existent.

Ed Malaya, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs, on Wednesday said the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo) in Dubai had already repatriated 11 of the 137 Filipino drivers.

He said that 11 left for Manila on April 14 while five were repatriated the following morning.

The 137 victims of bogus job offers applied with CVM International Services after [illegible] flyers distributed in various provincials announcing the availability of 4,000 jobs for taxi drivers through Dubai's Road and Transport Authority (RTA).

Upon arriving in Dubai, however, they learned that RTA, a well-respected government agency, was not aware of such recruitment efforts and was not in a hiring mode.

According to the consulate, the taxi drivers, most of whom came from Central Luzon, were promised good paying jobs in exchange for a placement fee of P150,000.

Running low on funds, the [illegible] Policy Center, a non-government organization [illegible] helping abroad OFWs, said the stranded drivers had reportedly resorted to raiding the dumpster near their living quarters for tin cans and metal to sell so that they can [illegible] they could have money to buy food.

The center said the workers were living in horrible conditions—their building relies on a generator set that delivers electricity only 3 to 4 hours a day, water supply is scarce, and is located in front of a smelly garbage dumpster.

Politics of confusion: Who's real opposition?

Muddled picture

Winnowing process

Legarda-Escudero tandem





FLORAL OFFERING

Senior Muslim clerics in talks with kidnappers

No troop withdrawal

Phone conversation





PUBLIC DEFENDER GOES VERY PUBLIC. [illegible]

DOJ tells PAO chief: Lay off Failon case

[illegible]



RP's Charice wows 57,000 Dodgers fans

[illegible]

Powerful talent agency

[illegible]

New role

[illegible]

No. 1 rating

[illegible]



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

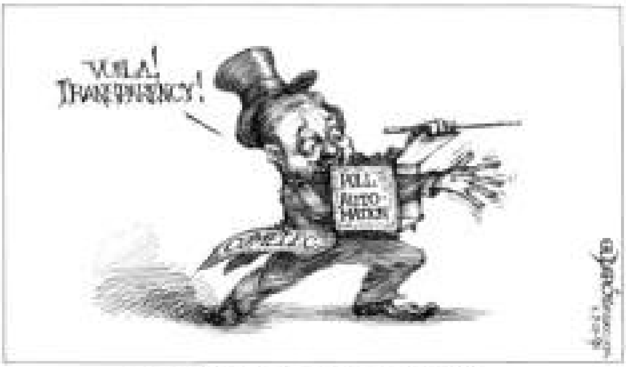
Opinion

Greening the courts

FOR THE THIRD TIME IN THREE YEARS, THE Supreme Court has convened an extraordinary assembly [illegible]

EDITORIAL

[illegible]



Ban TROs on election cases

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

Reality check

[illegible]

FOREIGN COMMENT

[illegible]

The Cincinnati Enquirer (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Edsa 3 now runs through Bangkok

PASSION FOR REASON

Randy David

[illegible]

Rise of mob rule

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

Family planning pays

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Geographical dictionaries

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

A Pinay in Timor Leste

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

The other Catholic country

Doctor First Lady

Tax Code anti-middle class

LETTERS

Autoclaves budget to be released ASAP

GSIS acting on request for adjustments

Ang Kapatiran not a party of 'trapos'

Right to protect one's honor as vital as right to life



'Against' ovulation but not 'against' conception

A soldier's wife prays for ASG kidnap victims

Days of subsidized power numbered

PSALM exec says Napocor losing plants that make low rates possible

BAGUIO CITY—THE NATIONAL POWER CORP is slowly losing the power plants that have kept electricity prices low for so long, a top energy official said here yesterday.

'We are told [that Napocor] may not be able to subsidize low rates for so long...'

SC chief: Implementation of environment laws poor



PUNO

Nuns seek tougher gov't campaign vs trafficking

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas



Albay folk assail unfinished bridge







Trekkers leave trash, cut trees in Mt. Banahaw

Pagasa says rains in hottest months signs of climate change

BAGUIO CITY—Rains in March and April, considered one of the hottest months in summer, are signs of climate change, according to a weather expert.

The unusual weather could be "good for agriculture but bad for infrastructure," said Danny Galan, weather specialist of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Aside from climate change, the cold front and the melting of ice in Antarctica have contributed to intermittent rains in summer.

"The melting of the ice from Antarctica moved to Japan as the cold front extended. We never experienced this before. The pattern was broken because of the climate change," he said.

Galan said farmers appreciate the rains during summer because these reduce the use of chemical fertilizers on plants.

Dr. Teresita Masangcay, research coordinator of the Bureau of Plant and Industry in the Cordillera, said the rains also drive away insects that feed on vegetables in farms in Mt. Province and Benguet. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

We'll face CHR, say Davao del Sur execs

DIGOS CITY—OFFICIALS OF Davao del Sur said they were ready to face the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) if it starts investigating summary killings in the province.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) has tagged Davao del Sur, including this city, as one of several areas in the Philippines where the Davao Death Squad (DDS) operates.

Officials have repeatedly denied the existence of the DDS, a vigilante group that was blamed for more than 800 gangland-style killings, mostly of petty crime and drug suspects, in Davao City.

The HRW also accused officials of the province and other areas in Southern Mindanao of complicity in the summary killings.

Last week, two male corpses were discovered in a ditch near the boundaries of [illegible], Davao del Sur and Makilala, North Cotabato.

Police said the victims were shot before they were [illegible].

[illegible] police chief, said the victims' bodies were just dumped in his town.

"We believe they were from North Cotabato because nobody knew them here," he said.

Prior to the discovery of the bodies, police in [illegible] town also announced the discovery of another corpse, which was also tied and bore gunshot wounds.

Senior Supt. [illegible], Davao del Sur police chief, said the police were investigating the



LEFTISTS hold a rally in Davao City to demand justice for Rebelyn Pitao, a 20-year-old teacher and daughter of NPA leader Commander Parago. Rebelyn was abducted and murdered allegedly by military agents.

[illegible]

killings but dismissed insinuations these were perpetrated by the DDS.

He said he already ordered police chiefs to come up with a list of cases of summary executions in their areas in case the CHR decides to come over to start investigating the killings.

"We are ready to answer any questions," he said.

The CHR has just concluded its initial investigation in Davao City, where more than 800 of the killings since 1999 in Southern Mindanao have occurred.

Digos City Mayor Arsenio Latasa said the CHR investigation would be a good move because it will finally put to rest suspicions that the killings were government-sanctioned.

Latasa also insisted there were no vigilante groups in his city.

"The DDS is a myth. Some people, whose relatives had been killed in the course of gang wars or personal grudges, wanted to have something they could pin the blame on," Latasa said yesterday.

Chief Insp. Anthony Pad[illegible], city police chief, said the killings here were not the work of a vigilante group.

[illegible] said half of the 11 cases of killings here that were reported in 2006 and 2007 have already been solved with the suspects charged in court.

Like Latasa, [illegible] blamed gang wars and personal grudges as behind the killings.

Latasa said as a lawyer, he believes suspects are always presumed innocent unless proven otherwise.

"I don't know who the HRW interviewed but there is really no DDS here," he said. —*Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

Wives tell of husbands' ordeal

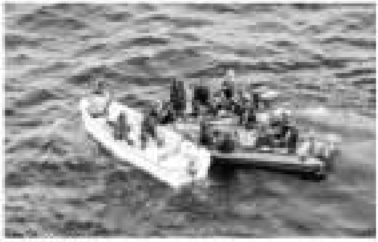


'Take care of mommy'

Wedding ring taken



NAVAL MIGHT



FRENCH MOVE

120 RP seamen now in Somali pirates' hands

Top supplier of seamen

Pirates strike off RP waters

78 ships attacked

Last year's ransom: $150M

Now, Senate ethics body facing inquiry

'It was expected'

Corruption issue



PIMENTEL



LACSON

Diversion from impropriety

Order ahead of hearing

Comelec says it's final: Poll automation to use scanners

By Kristine L. Alave



MELO

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) will use the Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) system in the May 10, 2010 elections, despite criticism by some information technology groups, according to the Comelec.

Comelec Chair Jose Melo said the election body's technical committee and the advisory council have decided on using the PCOS, a paper-based computerized voting system for the 2010 polls.

While the Comelec understands that there were concerns raised on the security and accuracy of computerizing the elections, "there will be no more debates on poll automation," Melo said in a press briefing.

Many countries in the world already make use of computer technology to count and canvass votes.

'About time'

"It's about time really that we trust the automation system," he added.

Melo was responding to a continuing campaign by some groups to discredit the automation of the 2010 polls by information technology groups whose proposal was not chosen by the Comelec. A number of congressmen and local officials also want to keep the manual counting system in the local level.

The Comelec chair warned that the critics of the PCOS may be used to sabotage the automated polls next year.

Comelec is currently conducting the bidding for the P11.3-billion automation contract.

The poll chair said the winning bidder's software and machines will be tested by the Department of Science and Technology, Commission on Information and Communications Technology, and the National Computer Center, which is based in the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

The Comelec also said it would open the software's source code, the instructions for the system, to IT advocacy groups.

Transparentelections.org and Computer Professionals Union (CPU) criticized the Comelec's choice of poll technology. The two groups said the poll body should have chosen the Open Election System (OES), a program created by Transparentelections.org members.

They said their OES program is cheaper and more transparent because it allows manual voting and counting at the precinct level.

According to the two critics, the PCOS machines cannot be trusted and that a technology savvy operator may insert a malicious code inside the system that would enable automated cheating.

But Melo dismissed the fears, saying the OES, which they proposed, also had its loopholes because it allowed greater human intervention.

"Human intervention is always prone to error, if not fraud, whereas in the computerized voting, the only human intervention is the feeding of the ballots or the shading of the ballots—the voting itself," Melo said.

The PCOS, which the Comelec chose, requires voters to indicate their choice by shading an oval beside the candidate's name. It is a system already used in church organizations. The ballots with the shaded ovals will then be fed into the counting machine. Precinct scores will then be tallied by other appropriate computer technology to speed up the release of election results.

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- **Automate the 2010 elections!**
- **Make change happen!**

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We have come a long way in fighting for every Filipino's dream of a modern electoral process. Let us make this work for our young and fragile democracy and throw wholesale electoral cheating into the dustbin of history.

An automated election system will modernize our democracy.

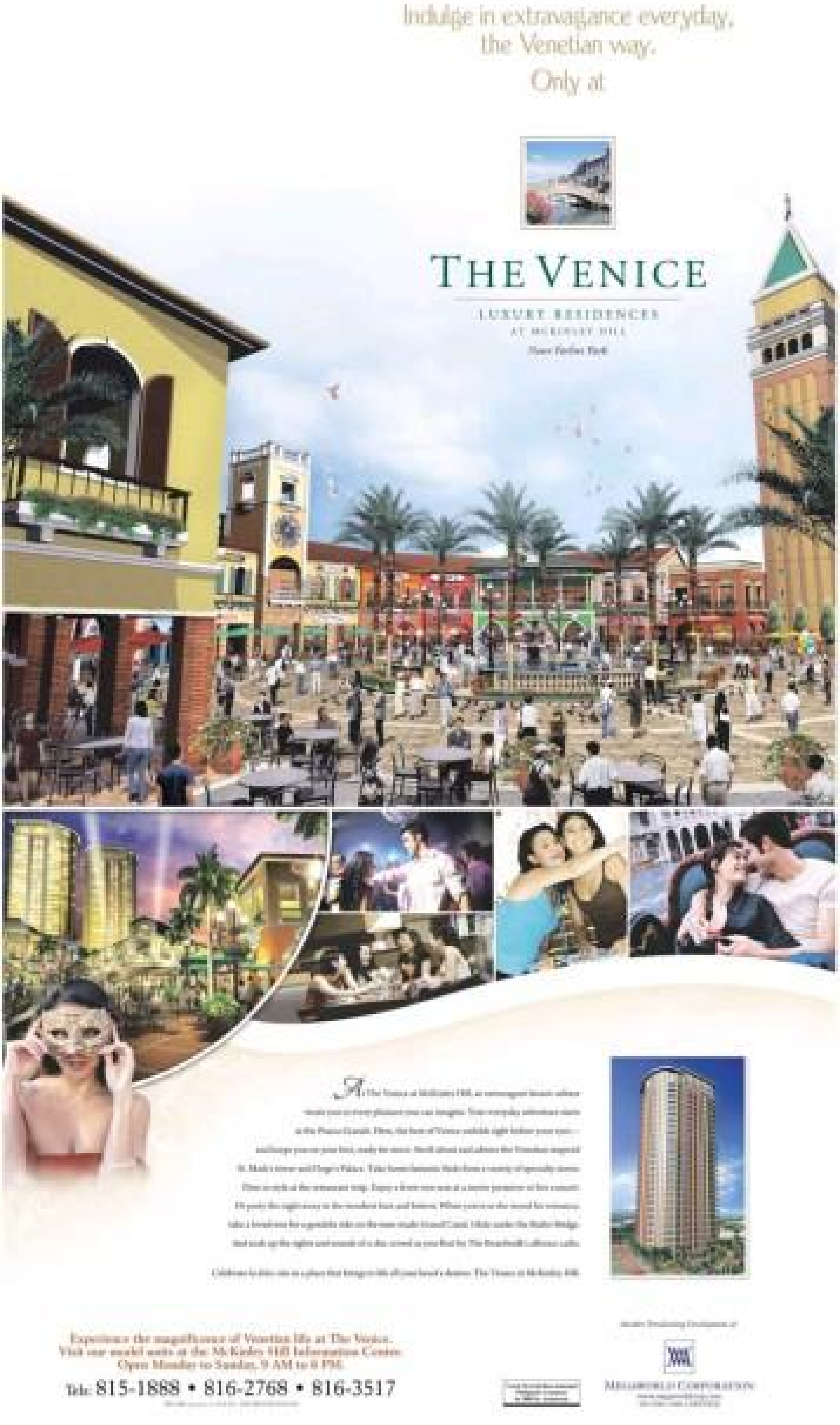
An automated election system will regain the Filipino people's trust and confidence in the electoral process.

An automated election system will make us strong as a nation and as a people.

Let us give the first-ever automation of Philippine elections a chance.

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A plus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

THE MABINI Shrine in Pandacan, Manila features a replica of the house in Tanauan, Batangas where Apolinario Mabini was born in 1864.

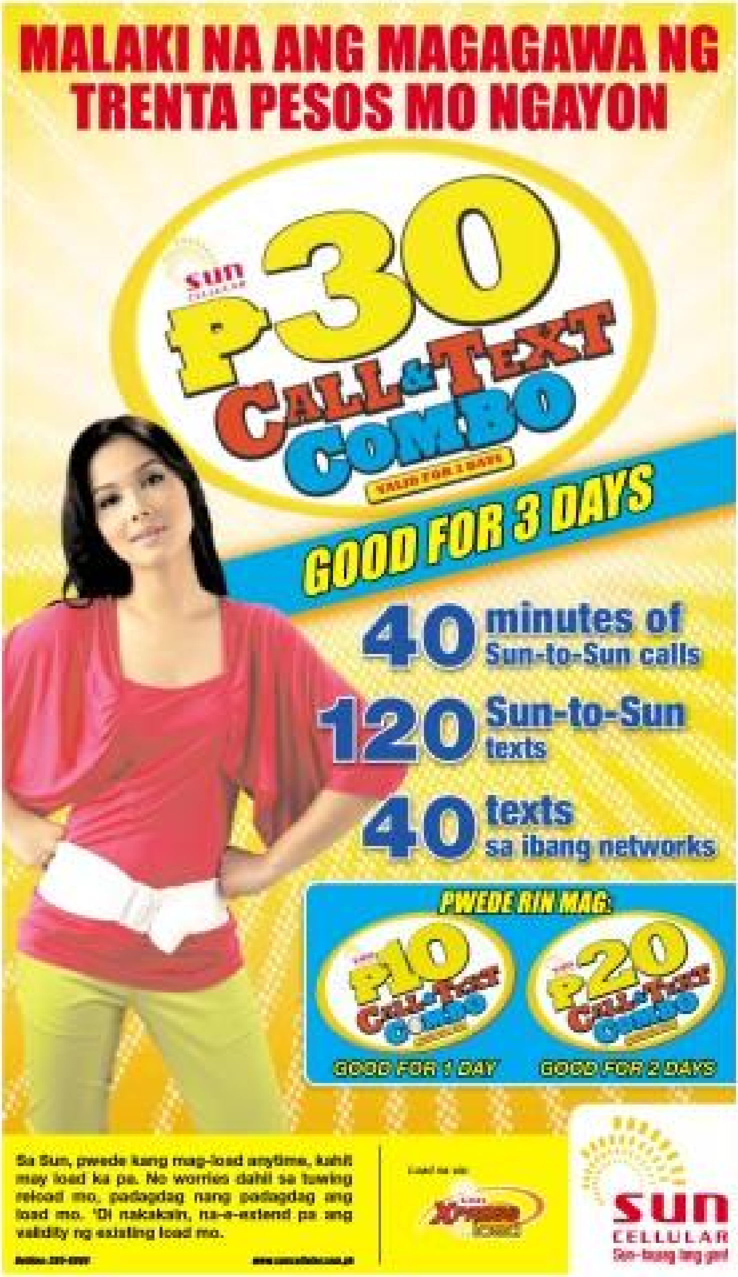
Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Sandigan acquits former DPWH chief

Hipolito, 9 other execs cleared of graft, estafa raps for insufficient evidence

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS ACquitted former Public Works and Highways Minister Jesus Hipolito and nine others in several graft and estafa cases that allegedly cost the government more than P92 million between 1985 and 1986.



Makati offers hassle-free passport processing

By Allison W. Lopez

INSTEAD OF JOINING THE LONG LINES AT the Department of Foreign Affairs, people applying for passports may go to the Makati City Hall on May 16.

Customs broker accuses 6 cops of extortion

Congressmen to fund new building for Camanava cops



JUST FOR LAUGHS



2 arrested for destroying slot machine, stealing P1,500 worth of Pagcor tokens

Public libraries in QC get 38 new computers

The WORLD

Claims of biz swindle in Dubai ruling family

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES—IN THIS GULF city-state, two things have long been untouchable: business interests and the ruling family. However, an attempt to sue a member of the family over an alleged financial swindle is a sign of how much the economic crisis has rattled business as usual here.

[illegible]

WORLDBRIEFS

Suicide car bomber kills 18 in Pakistan

[illegible]

AFP

Obama household income in 2008: $2.6M

[illegible]

AFP

US retreats, says China not manipulating currency

[illegible]

AFP

US eavesdropping exceeded legal limits, officials say

[illegible]

AFP


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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Tough Titans secure lead; Licealiz wins /A30

SPORTS



■ Spurs clinch division title /A31

Manny spars like a demon

Ring superstar adds power punches to arsenal



Tough Titans secure lead; Licealiz wins



All-Filipino Gin Kings collide with Painters

POC executive board acts on NSA rows

SPORTSWATCH

Scoop spotlight on Palaro

Pasay derby kicks off today

1,025 entries in 'Rambulan'

Reigning men's champ Foundation whips USJR



RP five in 'Group of Death'

Golf show lures top brands

Quirimit tops 4th lap; Reynante still up



QUIRIMIT

Time, cash well spent

ONE GAME AT A TIME



Spurs reign in Southwest



Nadal, Federer hurdle rivals

FCBL opener pits Squires vs Red Cubs

Young Orduna snares ROK junior class title



ORDUNA

De Guzman posts whopping 28-shot victory

SPORTS











Cavite s'belles take out Bacolod

By Cedelf P. Tupas

RIZAL AND CAVITE PULLED OFF A COUPLE of stunning victories yesterday to steal the limelight from International Little League Association of Manila in the 2009 Philippine Series in Manila.

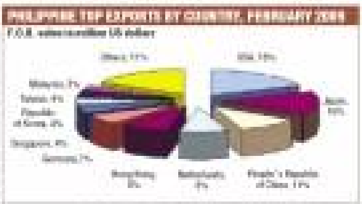
BUSINESS

Export slump dragged on, down 39% in Feb.

THE SLUMP IN THE COUNTRY'S EXPORT OF GOODS continued in February, falling by 39.1 percent to $2.504 billion from $4.112 billion in the same month of 2008.

[illegible]

EXPORT/B2



Gov't scales down growth target for 2009

[illegible]

GOV'T/B2

CURRENCIES

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Shares closed higher

SHARES/B2

IN THIS ISSUE

BSP slashes key rates by 25 bps

Borrowing, lending rates down to 4.5% and 6.5%

Personal care firm posts 6.6% profit growth

Vista Land sees tough year ahead

Petron to raise ₱15B for expansion



JG Summit reports net loss of ₱694M in '08

Gov't debt stock rose 0.9% percent in January

Export slump dragged on ...

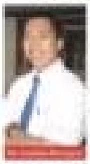
Gov't scales down growth ...

Shares closed higher

More power set for Visayas grid

Mining gets boost from TVIRD output

Climbing their way to the top: McDonald's Outstanding Restaurant Managers



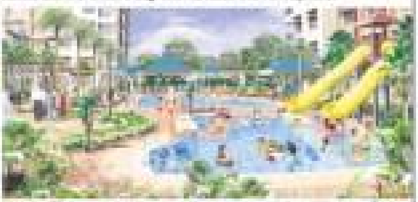


Give the gift of pleasure at Manhattan Garden City









Adjustments in law practice

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica



Available work

Debt collection

Labor cases

ICTSI pays $74M in debt

Longer term for remaining obligations sought

By Doris C. Dumlao



RAZON

APC, GMA-7 join exchange's main index

Doris C. Dumlao

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

Business

Small farmers get ₱240.5M in loans

By Riza T. Olchondra



GOVERNMENT program helps 4,800 small farmers.

Meralco signs deal to buy 8 MW of renewable energy

By Amy R. Remo



Premiere Bank President & CEO Keynotes Asian Financial Services Congress in Singapore



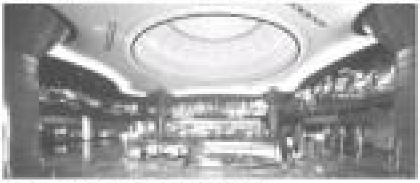


BUSINESS Friday

IN THIS ISSUE

People, Events & Products

Gateway Cineplex takes movie-going to the next level

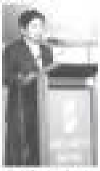




PLDT PROVIDES PREMIUM SERVICE TO SIX ELEVEN

ParkwayHealth offers affordable healthcare to int'l patients

SECURITY BANK HOSTS ECONOMIC FORUM

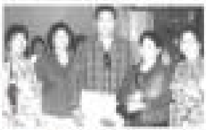


Bits & Clips

Secretaries' nat'l convention

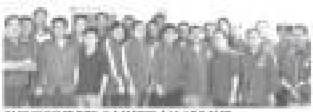
Philippine National Judo Championships

MANG INASAL IS NOW IN LUCENA CITY



POMP AND PAGEANTRY MARK WHTC'S GALA NIGHT

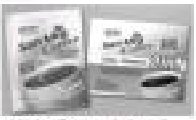




PHILIPPINE REB BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Product Files

Be no. 1 in hotness this summer



Parque España Residence Hotel feels like home



The Sun Shop Robinsons Luisita



VRP'S COFFEE TABLE BOOK



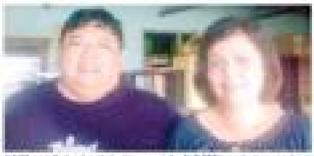
ARELLANO U'S AB COED IS MISS UNIVERSITY PHILIPPINES 2008



Finding a niche in kids' furniture

Mallari couple chose path less traveled





GOINGS-ON

Sun Shop Express sets up in Surigao

Know your trade terms

Monterey makes meats accessible

Rafi, Metaphil join hands to fix schools

What do consumers really, really want?



Wanna bet on maverick Juana Change?

Modern tropical enclave rising in Mariveles

BUSINESS *Friday*

Wanna bet on maverick Juana Change?

Mae Paner is a heavyweight in advertising circles



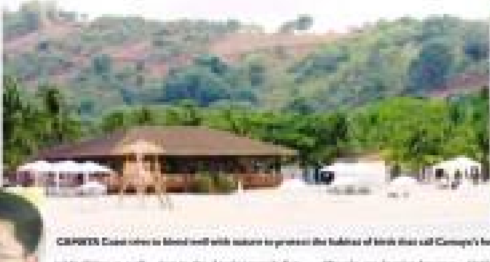


Brand positioning —Question 2

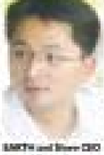
MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Andy Roberto

Modern tropical enclave rising in Mariveles







Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Contributing Editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
Joeel Ilppwam
and Ria Francisco-Prieto



Before the big shoulders come hourglass shapes and nipped waists

Louis Vuitton revisits the sober 1940s with tailored silhouettes for its pre-Fall collection



TAILORED skirts and soft knits

By Cheche V. Moral

LOUIS VUITTON MAKES A quick stop in the wartime 1940s with a sedate pre-Fall collection of tailored skirt suits and a great emphasis on the waist before Marc Jacobs segues the fashion house to the fun, flamboyant 1980s for Fall-Winter.

At the recent [illegible] show-style press preview of the Pre-Fall 2009 collection in Bangkok, the house showed a lineup of hourglass shapes: pencil skirts and belted jackets, waists marked with logo belts, and some delicate bow trims on knitwear. Pants are cropped, the better to show off the [illegible] shoes—with embroidery or sequins, in satin, velvet or suede skins, [illegible]. They're worn with socks.

The Irene bag, inspired by Madonna's pleated Kalahari style, is the bag for pre-

MORE C3





IRENE (above), pre-Fall's purse of embossed Monogram suede and [illegible] leather; Suzie platform heels (right) and Multicolore wallets (below)







RUFFLES on the neckline add texture

Maria Clara inspires summer knits



MARIA Clara-inspired sleeves



THE COTTON-BLEND [illegible]

Soft and light, they take you from boardroom to cocktails

ON THE HEELS OF ITS CAREER-inspired [illegible] Collection, Tex-Gan has drawn a line of softly tailored professional wear for summer. By just shrugging off one of the chic boleros in light cardigan, the outfits can easily go from boardroom to business cocktail and dinner receptions.

Tex-Gan's inspiration is the modern Maria Clara. "Our designs radiate with the feminine mystique of Filipino women at the turn of the century, without the overload of sugary girly frills. It's urban and romantic," said [illegible], assistant designer for Tex-Gan.

Contrary to belief that knitwear is too warm for the summer, Tex-Gan's tropical weight knits are machine-washable, functional, practical and cooler than any fabric you'll find. It's a clever insight into today's on-the-go woman who values style as much as function.

Tex-Gan is available at [illegible] Manila, Greenbelt 3, Makati and 2/L SM Megamall A. For made to order requests, call [illegible].



GRAPHIC detail on the striped sleeve



SHIRRING and soft draping

Winning Stories From SM and MASTERCARD

They shopped, they saved, and they won a Philips 47" LCD TV and home theater system in the joint SM and Mastercard promotion. And when eight of the fifty winners of the Shop, Win, and Save Raffle promotion recently claimed their prizes at the SM Makati Prestige Lounge, they happily exchanged how they won this wonderful prize.

Michelle Carrizosa, Christopher de Jesus, [illegible], [illegible], Yolanda Neri, Kara Lea Ong, [illegible], and [illegible] received their prizes from MasterCard's VP for Member Relations and Marketing Judith Dayrit and VP for Acceptance Development and Member Relations [illegible], BDO's SVP for Credit Management [illegible] and Advertising and Promotions and Manager Kiki Cheng presented them.

During the three-month promo period last year, every P3,000 single receipt purchase at any SM Department Store using a MasterCard credit card or debit card entitled them to a raffle coupon and a chance to great home entertainment. And here, they share their winning stories.



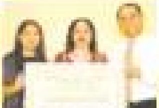
WINNERS at the Prestige Lounge of SM Makati, [illegible]



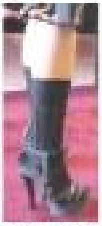












SOCKS come above the pretty in Chanel [illegible] heels.



PATENT-LEATHER clutches and belts



ZIPPERED boots that can be worn three ways



WAIST CINCHER (above) and wedge sandals with sculpted metal heels (below)





THE NEW Tambour watches; below, men's [illegible]



Before the big shoulders . . .

From page C1

fall, which arrives in stores in June. The muscled drawstring style comes in a mix of patent leather and monogrammed suede, in shades of brown and taupe.

Sofia Coppola's collection for the brand will also make its fall roll-out, to include the [illegible] city bags [illegible]

[illegible]

Louis Vuitton is at Greenbelt 4, Makati City.

For men

[illegible]

Next month, Vuitton will also debut the Tambour watch's bi-metallic version [illegible]



SEQUINED [illegible]

LifeStyle Fashion & Beauty



Tankinis, bandinis or string bikinis

TRIANGLE TOP



PSYCHEDELIC PRINT halter-top bikini



MULTICOLOR STRIPED tankini

WHETHER you're headed for the beach or think a pool is just as cool, make waves with fab swimwear from SM.

Tankinis have that girl-next-door sexiness and are fun to swim and search. Bandinis have that sophisticated vibe, while string bikinis celebrate all that's young and fun. Make a splash with bold colors, pretty floral prints, graphic geometrics and classic stripes that celebrate all things summer—sun, breeze and beach.

Photographed at Acuatico Beach Resort in Laiya, San Juan, Batangas, the swimwear collection is available at the Girls' Teens Wear Department of all SM stores.



HALTER bikini and boardshorts



STRING bikini

Arroceros Park marks Earth Day with fair

WHAT'S UP

Food exhibition

Visual arts tilt

UP golden jubilee homecoming

Gadgets' fair

All about weddings in Cebu

Aliwan fiesta

St. Mary's homecoming

Search for best mom

LifeStyle Fashion & Beauty

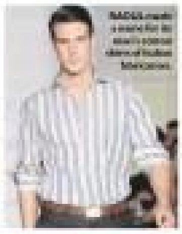


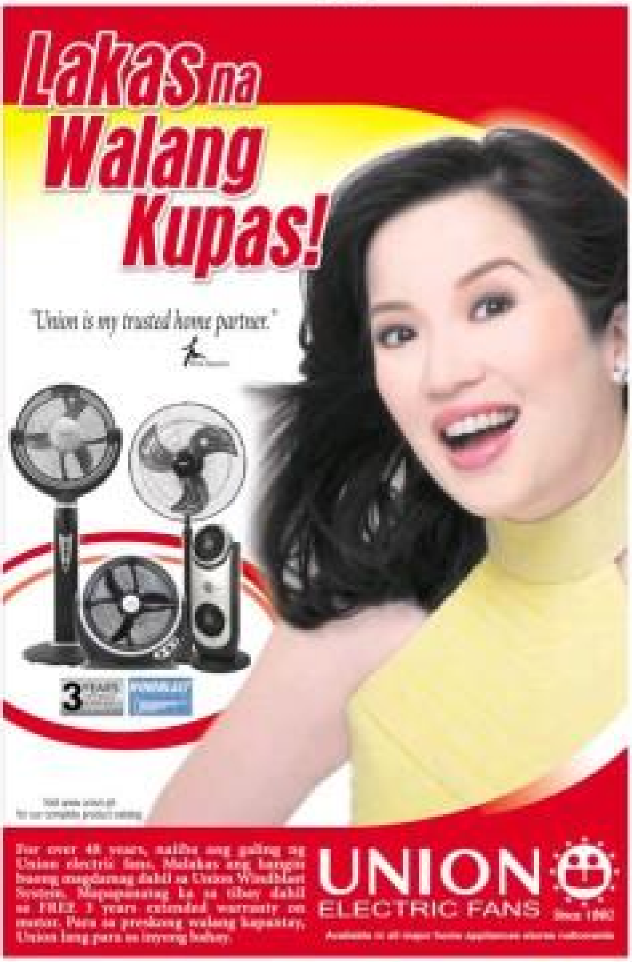


New regional brand comes to Manila

Singapore's Raoul expands amid what WWD calls a 'paradigm shift' from designer labels to mid- or low-priced brands



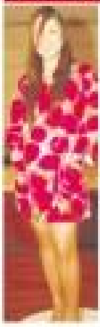




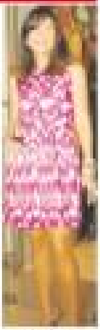
International

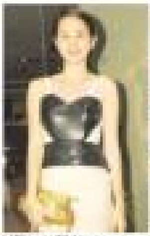


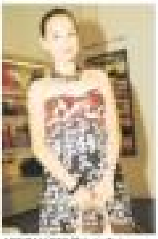
SPOTTED AT THE SHOW


GIANT FLORALS. Kris Tiñao wears it as a shirtdress.


COLOURBLOCKING. Trina Sustan wears separates.


HAT TRICK. Crystal Ocampo wears it in fuchsia and white.


BEST IN BUSTIER. Katy del Villar in black and white leather


AFRICAN PRINT. Jodie Golappo wears it strapless.

No credit crunch

D.I.Y.—not do it yourself, but Dress Interactively Yourself

By Larry Leviste
Contributor

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE Recession Chic-est party three weeks ago at Greenbelt 4. Instead of the costly mounting of a fashion show, guests saw Manila's top models striking a pose on small platforms outside the fab boutiques. And no swag bags.

Gucci, Prada, Bottega Veneta, Cha-


PRADA GIRL. Pia Gladys and her big IC bag


URBANE SHADES. Kai Cruz does it in pastels.


JIMMY CHOO LOOKS BRIGHT. Emerald green shift with a black studded bag

Smart Ways for Cooler Days

Even if the sun-shiny days of summer fire up visions of white sand beaches and splashing waves, there's still no escaping the hot temperatures the summer season brings. But you don't have to let the uncomfortable heat spoil the fun. Here are the top ways to fight the heat without spending a fortune.


Fight the summer heat with cool air

Water it down

[illegible]

Go Tropical

[illegible]

Dress for the summer

[illegible]

More Air

[illegible]

Keep your cool

[illegible]


SPRING'S palette includes pastels to jewel colors for both men's and women's collections.



New regional brand co

From page D1

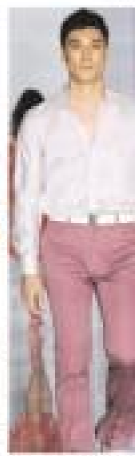
[illegible]


DOUGLAS and Odile Benjamin









...ted, Tod's, Ferragamo, Hugo Boss and ...ade Japan, Jimmy Choo. This way they ...ould look at the various clothes up ...lose.

These pals a posse pieces were flown ...just for this amazing allsiding to go with ...the bags, shoes and accessories. I loved ...the white linen tailored separates at Gucci, the fisherman cotton open-weave ...at Ferragamo, the just-shown in ...Marc Jacobs outfits of Louis Vuitton ...knitwear and gold leather collage ...and the parent white ...separates at Bottega. And—I loved feeling and seeing the latest Spring Summer Collection of precision-crafted jewels at Bulgari and Philippe Charriol. It all looks feminine and filigreed.

Of course SSI executive vice president Anton Huang's ever reliable manager Ramon Bas Aguilar made sure the guests, mostly his loyal clients, were busy snapping up the merchandise amid the festivities that included a live jazz band in a Jackie Aquino direction.

Look at the photos of girlfriend pure-shoppers who were not afraid to tell me that some of their pieces were done seasons ago so that they raided their mom's closet. It was D.I.Y.—not do it yourself, but Dress Innovatively Yourself, meaning just take a moment to look at the new fashion look and put together the loose-looking pieces you have in your wardrobe, like a mystery puzzle. This will sharpen your taste. And speaking of taste, everyone devoured the many bell ...food ... that prepared by Margarita Fores who ... a ... dessert, Crème Brûlée.



CHARRIOL offers scaled down bling but the look is more feminine for a ... filigreed. ... Bulgari ... sew up for, both bejeweled.







OFF WHITE IS SO RIGHT: Salvatore Ferragamo's clothes for her in contemporary ... cotton ... top with linear shorts.



GUCCI for summer is a white mini shift dress with the ... bag and classic pumps.



JIMMY CHOO. Bright and simple in a red dress and a big, soft bag.



BOTTEGA VENETA. Classic pantsuit with brilliant blue tote bag.

...mes to Manila



...Frank Benjamin, founder of FJ Benjamin Holdings; Karen Brodie ...; ...brand manager Anton T. Huang, SSI EVP; Elizabeth Quiambao, SSI general ...; Nash Benjamin, group CEO of FJ Benjamin Holdings

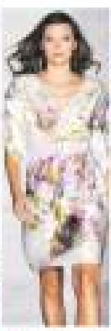
...Benjamin said. "For the Asian ...what's fueling [global] business is the biggest market, the ...most discerning. We ...able to stand against any other ...world."

...summer, Bacall's collection the perfect foil to the ...: happy, easy, light and flowy ...men's shirts and pants to pas... ...inspired by "summer in the Mediterranean." ...as described by ..., who is chief of design. ...clothing, classic with longevity," she said of casual and dressier separates that included a "70s-style one-shoulder jumpsuit, wrap-style tops and dresses for women.

"We're trying to do something different because we're known for cotton shirts," she said. For the first time, Bacall uses silk and colorful prints. Bacall began producing women's pieces when the couple learned women clients liked their shirts so much they were using their husbands' or boyfriends'. Right now, said Odile, "that's the look. We don't work within a square."







BACALL: ... with ... and ... for the first time with the current collection.

Can shoes be political?

By Brian U. Tenorio
Contributor



TENORIO in his Marikina workshop



A JOURNALIST throws a shoe at President George W. Bush during a news conference with Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in Baghdad.

Yamamoto vs Prada

Dying shoe industry

Shoe and memory

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Beauty tips for long flights

KNOCKOUT!



Ria Francisco-Prieto

PREPARING FOR A long flight has changed since 9/11. Airport security can turn off a lot of travelers. I'm dreading it myself!

[illegible]

If you want to keep your face moisturized, a moisturizing soap is a good thing to have in your bag

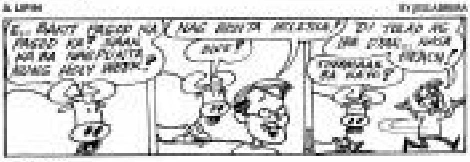
[illegible]



GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



A. LIPIN



PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY



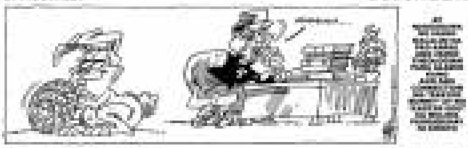
LOVELOTS



JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY



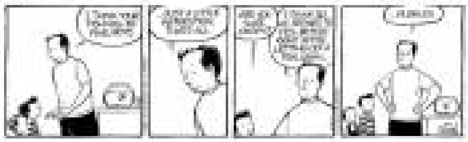
BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott



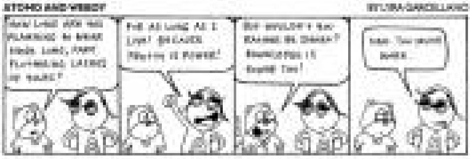
TULDOK



BEN — By Daniel Shelton



ATOMO AND WEEDY



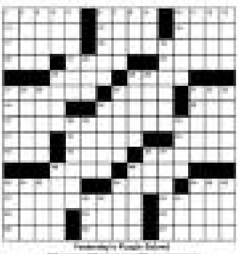
HOROSCOPE

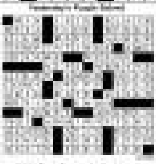
By Francis Drake

KIKO MACHINE



CROSSWORD PUZZLE





CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

6							3	5
			7					8
			3	5				
	5	2						
		9				4		
						2	9	
				9	6			
4					7			
3	8							2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Answer to previous puzzle

5	4	8	2	7	3	1	9	6
9	6	7	1	5	4	8	3	2
2	3	1	8	9	6	5	4	7
1	2	9	7	3	8	6	5	4
7	8	6	5	4	2	3	1	9
3	5	4	6	1	9	2	7	8
8	1	3	9	6	7	4	2	5
4	9	2	3	8	5	7	6	1
6	7	5	4	2	1	9	8	3

What to do with extreme hair loss during summer



MAKEOVER 911

Kinsey Sulao



KERASTASE Aminexil hair loss prevention shampoo

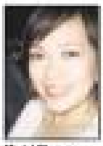
Hello Kitty makeup



FASHION 21 Aquabloom moisture-rich lipsticks

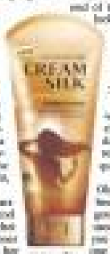
How to keep tresses silky on the beach

Plus travel tips to get you packing right—and light



Marie Chua

Hair care



Cream Silk conditioner

SPF smarts

Breezy beauty

Gorgeous looks to try this season

Variety is key



Kelly Mis

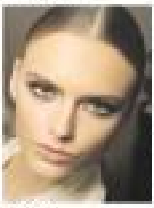
Chloe, Fendi and Jil Sander



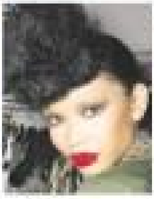
CHANEL



DOLCE & GABBANA



VERSACE



LOUIS VUITTON

Bottega Veneta, Missoni and Versace

Burberry Prorsum, Oscar de la Renta, Valentino

Alberta Ferretti and Louis Vuitton

Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent, Christian Lacroix and Lanvin

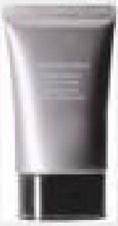
Dolce & Gabbana, Prada and Stella McCartney

Fake bake—for guys

Here are 'manliest' ways of getting bronzed, without touching a compact

By L.A. Corsino Lopez
Contributor

"YOU GOTTA FAKE IT 'TIL YOU make it," they say. The same rule applies when trying to achieve something as superficial as the perfect tan. While most people would rather dash to the nearest pool or beach and bask in the sun, truth is, time is one luxury not too many people have. [illegible]



SHISEIDO Men Moisturizing Self-Tanner

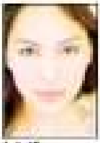
[illegible]

L.A. Corsino Lopez is the style and grooming editor of Rogue magazine.

Look fabulous at 50

Avoid vivid eyeshades that accentuate your wrinkles

SOME SAY LIFE BEGINS AT 50, BUT [illegible]





MICHELLE Pfeiffer

Skin prep

Before applying makeup, make sure your skin is clean and free from any dead cells. Wash your face and exfoliate it. This will work wonders on your complexion.

Foundation

When applying foundation, make sure [illegible]



KIEHL'S Ultimate White Accelerated Whitening Moisturizer

Eye makeup

[illegible]

Cheek blush

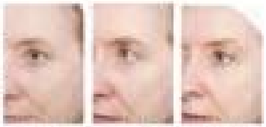
[illegible]

Lip color

[illegible]

Eye wrinkle treatment utilizes health benefits of durian fruit

By Dr. Howard Murad
Contributor



FORMULATED FOR THE eye area, [illegible]



MURAD'S New Intensive Wrinkle Reducer for Eyes with Durian Cell Reform

[illegible]

For more information, please visit www.murad.com.

Lifestyle Fashion&Beauty



Eco-fashionable kids

KIDS GO ECO-FASHIONABLE this summer as Rustan's presents its latest collection of children's fashion from famed brands Ralph Lauren Kids, Kiddie, Zutano, Platypus, Spin, Gingersnaps, Periwinkle, Hallmark Babies, Tutu Tutu, Barbie and Hot Wheels, Crocs and Superga.

Homegrown brand Kiddie showcases a collection with Children's Environment Awareness and Action Fund (CEAAF). Made from the safest organic materials, it features endangered species from the Philippines.

Hallmark Babies also has its say on the protection of wildlife with a collection inspired by marine and forest animals in playful designs and colors of sea green and sea blue. It has also launched its own Organic Cotton Collection, lessening the risk of skin irritation.

Producing clothes as unique as our babies, Zutano's Spring/Summer collection is made with the softest 100-percent cotton in over 50 patterns and designs. Continuously tailoring and streamlining the essential baby needs like jumpers, tees, bottoms and dresses, Zutano is also

ECO-FASHIONABLE F1



WILMA Visoria with Taguig's well-respected First Lady Baps Tiñga, former Makati mayor Dr. Elenita Binay, Fe Rodriguez, Moan Tamano and Taguig's dynamic Mayor Freddie Tiñga



THE CELEBRATOR with her young gang: Nix Alanon with Leah Papa, Fe, Janie and Snoopy Rodriguez and Babi Laurel, (seated) Mike Santiesteban, Anton Barretto, Meke Gamboa and multifaceted Tina Ocampo



SUPER couple Lucille Carlos and hubby mega business entrepreneur Mick Laurel, with Cinderella's Florence Santos



ALL IN the family: Our Queen for a Day Fe Santos Rodriguez with Janie, Mary Faye and Mocha Garcia and multifaceted businessman Cesar Rodriguez

Fe Rodriguez asks for charity donations on her birthday

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache



Photos by Alex Van Hagen using ... Photo Solutions

This fascinating woman of stature knows what giving a fun, great bash is all about, dahlings. She's none other than ex-councilor, fashion plate and charity worker Fe Santos Rodriguez. Guests at her house included the young and young-at-heart, pahleeze.

With a wide array of scrumptious delights provided by the caterer and an intimate setting styled by her talented son Janie, Fe made sure that the invitees would enjoy the evening. It was an ideal birthday celebration, featuring an exciting menu paired with tons of amusing conversation and gossip over cocktails.

The best part was the presence of two former mayors, Quezon City's Mel Mathay and Makati's Dr. Elenita Binay, and Taguig's dynamic Mayor Freddie Tiñga with his adorable wife Baps, dahlings.

During a tour of Fe's sprawling condo, we spotted a gorgeous painting of her by the great artist Manansala.

Then Fe requested that donations be given to Sunshine Bata and Stay-in Bata Center for research and development in lieu of gifts, dahlings. No wonder we had a great time 'til way past 2 a.m., pahleeze.

Philippine Star Ball 2009

The Philippine Star Ball 2009 superbly organized by Michaela "Pinky" Poon at the grand ballroom of Shangri-La Makati was an awesome success, dahlings. Top dancers from 27 countries, no less, jetted into town for a fantastic night of ballroom dancing, dahlings. The exciting event was emceed by world dance champion Gary McDonald and co-hosted by Edu Manzano and internationally renowned dancer Charlotte Jorgensen.

Manila's dance aficionados were in full force cheering for their favorites.

Opening the star-studded happening were Pinky Poon and her partner Slava Bergien. Her husband and number one supporter, DOLE Sec. Ronnie Poon, and other members of the Poon clan watched and applauded with pride, pahleeze.

One highlight was the terrific dance number by the Antipolo street children. Belinda Adora, our very own dance champion, trained the children, who she hopes "will be the future dance champions of our country."

Last year's mega champions in the professional category, Felix Zagorovchenko and Alexandra Charlie again won this year's grand competition.

Proceeds went to Pinky's pet project Kythe, which helps children with cancer.

With all the twisting and twirling, it's no wonder that all the guests danced 'til way past Cinderella's bedtime, pahleeze.

Celebration of real beauty

"Mirror, mirror on the wall who is the fairest of them all?" When I dashed over to the Gallery of Greenbelt 3 (GB3), popular fashion photographer Sara Black, a beauty herself, answered that question with her photo exhibit called "When I Look in the Mirror." And believe me, there were tons of really beautiful women celebrating "real beauty," dahlings. A project in partnership with Dove, the event showcased 40 portraits of eye-catching women who had trademark features like a huge mole, freckles, a lightning-shaped scar or a row of crooked teeth. These women didn't resort to measures to hide such "flaws." Instead, they embraced everything that makes them who they are, pahleeze.

"This book is my reaction to working in an industry that can sometimes be so overly obsessed with perfection and ends up thinking that it's their benchmark or standard of beauty," says Sara.

"When I Look in the Mirror" is another positive addition to Dove's growing roster of projects "to strengthen women's confidence and self-esteem," said the event's host Dennis Perez, Dove's brand manager.

Hair problem!

For those who have hair problems, visit Bowmann. Miracles will happen, pahleeze. Teresa Prieto-Valdes, Bea Alonzo and myself, among others, are the perfect examples.



PHILIPPINE Ballroom mega organizer Michaela "Pinky" Poon with fantastic dance partner Slava Bergien in a ... opening number



FE RODRIGUEZ'S charity-oriented gang: Letty Tiopco with Chinggay Cruz, Agnes Helbedico, Baba Laurel, Bel Philipp, Nene Laurel, Mabel Abalo, (seated) Nel Laurel, Fe R., Malou Alday and Gilda Sotorgo



CONSTRUCTION magnate Philip Cruz with business magnate Al Santos



MONICA Gomarra with Rachel Maps, Noemi Gomarra, me and Wanda Louwallien



BOBBY Marcoado with Mabel Abalo, Chit Balori, Mary Pappas and Offie Rocio



TWOSOME: Businessman Ricardo Fe and Marites Padilla Co-Unjieng



PATTY and Raul Arambulo with adorable southern lady Ann Poon



BALLROOM Queen Becky Garcia with DOT Undersecretary Cynthia Carreon, Amy Pena Poon, Pinky P. and Miguel Carreon



DANE Mendoza, Shiny and Eddie Mendoza, Martha Buckley and cultural attaché of the US Embassy Mikki Mendoza



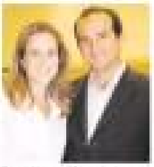
MILLEY Mancusqui with Cubaban's Mitchie Sison and Maritess Mendoza Pineda



CHIT DY with Softail's mega aunt Rose Libongco, and Olga Martel



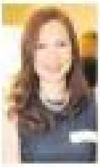
THEY came in full Poon force: Chiqui and Ruby Poon with Ruby Pijuan, Mikaela Poon, Charlie Bicoo, Antoine and Rolly Poon, Sec. Ronnie Poon and Atty. Nena Poon



SOFIA Zobel of Tango Dance Studio and Ipanema's top man Paul Gloudie



STILL in cloud honeymoon: Rick and Joanne Monsanto Tupaingco



STAUNCH Dove advocate Susan Campos



MOM AND daughter: Maly and Rei Mollgreen



MONIQUE Villonco with Alexis Monzeres, "When I Look in the Mirror" beauty Muse Fondevera and photographer Paco Gaudet



STAR of the night: "When I Look in the Mirror's" Sara Black



CULTURAL preservation personality Bea Zobel Jr. with the Dove brand manager Dennis Perez, eye-catching Palomar Zobel and culinary whiz Karen Santos



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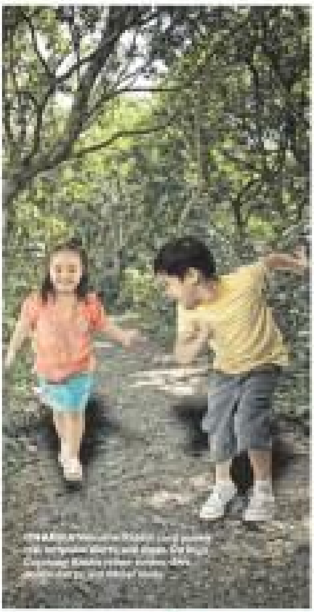
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Eco-fashionable kids

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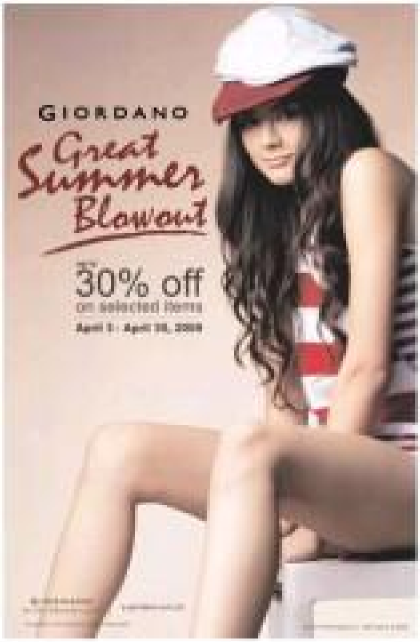
High-street fashion goes Provençal, vintage Hawaiian

[illegible]





[illegible]





Sun Protection 101

What to look for when buying sunblock lotion















ENTERTAINMENT

Because Paula, Kara talk too much



Nora Aunor back with 1st all-original album

By Pocholo Concepcion


AT LAST, Nora Aunor forsakes the usual covers.

NORA E2

What matters most to Shaina

By Marinel R. Cruz


SHAINA Magdayao

SHAINA E2

Screen writer directs

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Overdue

SCREEN E2







Nora Aunor back . . .

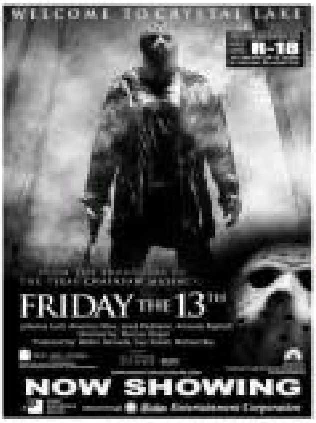


Effortless sustain

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

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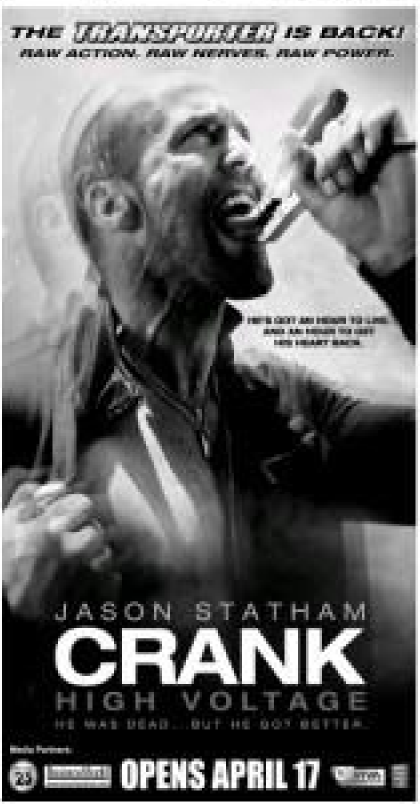


Nestor U. Torre



Screen write

Gifted cast







What ma

... dark



'Eleventh Hour'

Patti Page

'Top Design'

... r directs



... atters...





Lea Salonga returns to LA for shows

Only IN Hollywood



Ruben V. Nepales

> 'I'll be singing for an hour... I'll showcase the best of what I've got'

Trailblazer

Quest Crew

Lea's ex

Another Kim

David's 8th

Proud wife, mom



Opening Today

17 Again





Crank: High Voltage

LIVING Stars

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

TAIL TALES

GISELLE SANCHEZ

MY BIG, BLACK ROTTWEILER [illegible] IS ONE mean, scary machine. He's very effective as a guard dog. He's 3 years old, big and muscular. When he stands on his hind legs, he's as tall as a person. I try to walk him regularly. It's just that he doesn't really [illegible]. My husband [illegible] and I also like playing catch-ball with him.

—Bayani San Diego Jr.



High life



TELESCOPE from the Middle East and binoculars from his grandfather's [illegible]

HOME BODY

Island adventurer Kiko Rustia finds his sanctuary on the 27th floor of a city condo



By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by [illegible]

ALTHOUGH HE IS A certified "island adventurer," Kiko Rustia feels right at home on the 27th floor of a high-rise in the middle of a busy business district.

The Rustia family have been living in a condominium building for the past six years, although in 2004, Kiko turned his back on city life and lived on [illegible] island for three years.

"I found peace ... I found myself in [illegible]," he recalls.

In 2007, he returned to Manila to help in the family's burgeoning trading business, but a year later, he was back castaway-tripping on the Thai island of Koh Tarutao via the GMA 7 reality show "Survivor Philippines" Season 1.

HOME F8

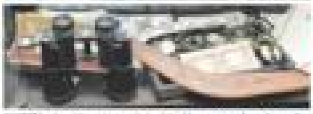





RELAXING in the bedroom he shares with younger brother Robbie


ALL-PURPOSE kitchen counter also serves as dining table.


SITTING room was decorated by mom Maria


KIKO'S bodega: binoculars and aboriginal boomerang from Australia, along with antique coin and paper money collection

High life

From page H4

"I have an affinity for islands. I love the ocean," Kiko admits.

Even in the city, he manages to bask in the great outdoors.

"I spend a lot of time watching Discovery Channel and National Geographic shows," he explains.

(When Living Stars visited Kiko at home, he was in the living room watching the Discovery Channel documentary series "The Blue Planet." He told us, "The show is narrated by David Attenborough. The ocean's very mysterious.")

The living room is his fave nook in the house.

"I feel comfortable and relaxed here," he says. "We don't allow shoes in this room because I often lie down on the carpeted floor."


CHINA doll


PAIR of brass irons from Belgium


COLLECTION of shisha pipes from the Middle East

The Rustias enjoy playing board games on the living room floor, too.

"Our favorite is 'The Game of Life,'" Kiko says. "It's fun. Computer games are solitary, while the entire family can participate in board games."

But when he wants a little alone time, he holes up in another unit, on a lower floor—his bachelor's pad.

Both units were designed by his mom Maria and sport a distinctly Asian look.

Before becoming a flight attendant for a Russian airline, mom Maria took up interior design in Illinois.

She filled the home with myriad souvenirs from numerous travels—including vintage Bakera watches from Europe.

Another source of pride is a collection of shisha pipes, along with a coffee miller and a silver lotion container from the Middle East.

Mom and son both adore the papyrus prints from Egypt. "I'm also drawn to ancient civilizations," Kiko sums up.

He has contributed his own unique trinkets to the collection—including an oar from the "Survivor" trial and a boomerang from Australia.

Mom likewise designed the cabinets in the family unit.

She's particularly proud of the all-purpose kitchen counter, which also serves as dining table.

"It's very practical, a space saver," Kiko says. "We take our meals at this counter and my sisters also do their baking here."

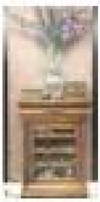
Kiko, who took up culinary arts as well, says he inherited his knack for "home improvement" from his mom.

When he was young, he explored the bodega (storeroom) of the ancestral house in Bulacan—unleashing an adult treasure

PAGE H6


PAPYRUS prints of ancient royals from Egypt


ELEGANT porcelain eggs


WOODEN cabinet for wine collection


THE Balinese wooden figure stands guard in Kiko's rest pad.

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MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 FAST and FURIOUS 4
2 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
3 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
4 FRIDAY the 13TH
5 T2
6 KNOWING
7 SEVENTEEN AGAIN
8 QUEEN RAQUELA
9 MONSTERS vs. ALIENS
10 CRANK 2

ERMITA

1 SEVENTEEN AGAIN
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6 MONSTERS vs. ALIENS/CRANK 2
7 FRIDAY the 13TH

METRO EAST

1 T2
2 FRIDAY the 13TH
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4 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
5 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
6 CRANK 2
7 MONSTERS vs. ALIENS
8 SEVENTEEN AGAIN

NOVALICHES

1 FAST & FURIOUS 4
2 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
3 FRIDAY the 13TH
4 T2

PIONEER

1 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
2 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
3 T2
4 FRIDAY the 13TH



STA. ROSA

1 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
2 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
3 KNOWING
4 T2

LIPA

1 THE SECRET OF MOONACRE
2 T2
3 CRANK 2
4 12 ROUNDS

DASMARIÑAS

1 T2
2 CRANK 2
3 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
4 FRIDAY the 13TH

IMUS

1 FRIDAY the 13TH
2 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
3 FAST & FURIOUS 4
4 T2
5 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

ANGELES

1 FAST & FURIOUS 4
2 T2
3 FRIDAY the 13TH
4 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION

STARMILLS

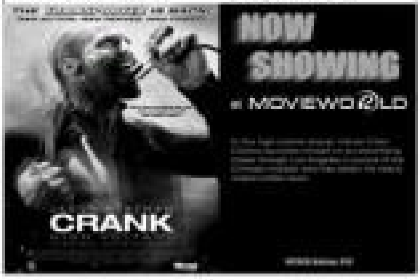
1 KNOWING
2 T2
3 FRIDAY the 13TH
4 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
5 FAST & FURIOUS 4
6 THEY WAIT

BACOLOD

1 FRIDAY the 13TH
2 T2
3 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
4 THE UNBORN
5 KNOWING
6 THE SECRET OF MOONACRE

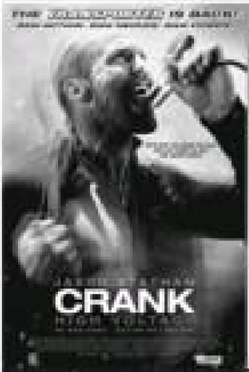
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1 DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION
2 T2
3 FRIDAY the 13TH
4 THE UNBORN
5 KNOWING
6 MONSTERS vs. ALIENS



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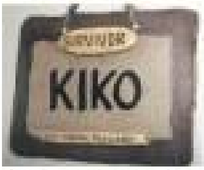
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VISAYAS • MINDANAO





High life





